



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 307**

February Session, 2002

Substitute House Bill No. 5424

*House of Representatives, April 4, 2002*

The Committee on Public Health reported through REP. EBERLE of the 15th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AND THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2002*) (a) The Commissioners of
- 2 Public Safety, Public Health, Children and Families, Mental Health and
- 3 Addiction Services and Education shall jointly develop a plan that
- 4 includes the special needs of children exposed to terrorism, including
- 5 bioterrorism, and to strengthen emergency and rescue services for
- 6 children to protect them from biological, chemical and toxic agents.
- 7 The plan shall: (1) Ensure that fire and police personnel, emergency
- 8 medical technicians and other emergency workers are equipped and
- 9 trained to deal with the medical needs of children exposed to a
- 10 terrorist attack; (2) ensure that safe, appropriate medicines are
- 11 available for children affected by a bioterrorist attack; (3) provide for
- 12 the coordination of communications and training regarding the
- 13 protection, health and safety of children in response to terrorism; (4)
- 14 ensure that mental health services are available for children affected by

15 terrorist attacks, including mental health consultants for child day care  
16 and school readiness programs and mental health professionals in  
17 schools or linked to schools through community mental health  
18 systems; (5) ensure, with the assistance of local building officials, that  
19 all school buildings and day care facilities are structurally safe and  
20 secure; (6) ensure that children have a safe place to be during  
21 nonschool hours through the use of community facilities and resources  
22 such as after school programs in schools; and (7) include methods to  
23 increase youth involvement in community service and civic activities.

24 (b) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall report, in accordance  
25 with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the General Assembly on  
26 the plan developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section by  
27 January 1, 2003.

28 Sec. 2. Section 10-220f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
29 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2002*):

30 Each local and regional board of education [may] shall establish a  
31 school district safety committee to: (1) Develop a crisis response plan  
32 for incidents of terrorism and other emergencies that includes safety  
33 and security measures, including evacuation procedures, provision for  
34 mental health services for children, staff and parents, and methods to  
35 disseminate accurate and appropriate information to children, staff,  
36 and parents; (2) review the adequacy of emergency response  
37 procedures at each school and recommend changes to such procedures  
38 in accordance with the crisis response plan; and (3) increase staff and  
39 student awareness of safety and health issues. [and to review the  
40 adequacy of emergency response procedures at each school.] Parents  
41 and high school students shall be included in the membership of such  
42 committees.

43 Sec. 3. Subsection (a) of section 19a-79 of the general statutes, as  
44 amended by section 48 of public act 01-4 of the June special session, is  
45 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
46 *1, 2002*):

47 (a) The Commissioner of Public Health shall adopt regulations, in  
48 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes  
49 of sections 19a-77 to 19a-80, inclusive, as amended, and 19a-82 to 19a-  
50 87, inclusive, and to assure that child day care centers and group day  
51 care homes shall meet the health, educational and social needs of  
52 children utilizing such child day care centers and group day care  
53 homes. Such regulations shall (1) specify that before being permitted to  
54 attend any child day care center or group day care home, each child  
55 shall be protected as age-appropriate by adequate immunization  
56 against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps,  
57 rubella, hemophilus influenzae type B and any other vaccine required  
58 by the schedule of active immunization adopted pursuant to section  
59 19a-7f, including appropriate exemptions for children for whom such  
60 immunization is medically contraindicated and for children whose  
61 parents object to such immunization on religious grounds, (2) specify  
62 conditions under which child day care center directors and teachers  
63 and group day care home providers may administer tests to monitor  
64 glucose levels in a child with diagnosed diabetes mellitus, and  
65 administer medicinal preparations, including controlled drugs  
66 specified in the regulations by the commissioner, to a child receiving  
67 child day care services at such child day care center or group day care  
68 home pursuant to the written order of a physician licensed to practice  
69 medicine or a dentist licensed to practice dental medicine in this or  
70 another state, or an advanced practice registered nurse licensed to  
71 prescribe in accordance with section 20-94a, or a physician assistant  
72 licensed to prescribe in accordance with section 20-12d, and the written  
73 authorization of a parent or guardian of such child, (3) specify that an  
74 operator of a child day care center or group day care home, licensed  
75 before January 1, 1986, or an operator who receives a license after  
76 January 1, 1986, for a facility licensed prior to January 1, 1986, shall  
77 provide a minimum of thirty square feet per child of total indoor  
78 usable space, free of furniture except that needed for the children's  
79 purposes, exclusive of toilet rooms, bathrooms, coatrooms, kitchens,  
80 halls, isolation room or other rooms used for purposes other than the  
81 activities of the children, (4) specify that a child day care center or

82 group day care home licensed after January 1, 1986, shall provide  
83 thirty-five square feet per child of total indoor usable space, [and] (5)  
84 establish appropriate child day care center staffing requirements for  
85 employees certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation by the American  
86 Red Cross or the American Heart Association, and (6) require each day  
87 care center and group day care home to develop a crisis response plan  
88 for incidents of terrorism and other emergencies that includes safety  
89 and security measures, including evacuation procedures, provision for  
90 mental health services for children, staff and parents, and methods to  
91 disseminate accurate and appropriate information to children, staff,  
92 and parents.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2002</i>
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2002</i>

**KID**            *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*

PH

**PH**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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### **OFA Fiscal Note**

#### **State Impact:**

<b>Fund-Type</b>	<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
GF - Cost	Children & Families, Dept.; Public Health, Dept.; Social Services, Dept.; Public Safety, Dept.	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

#### **Municipal Impact:**

<b>Effect</b>	<b>Municipalities</b>	<b>FY 03 \$</b>	<b>FY 04 \$</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>
STATE MANDATE - Cost	Various Local & Regional School Districts	Minimal	Minimal	Minimal

### **Explanation**

The bill requires various state commissioners to develop a plan that focuses on addressing the special needs of children exposed to terrorism and emergencies involving certain agents. While the agencies designated in the bill can organize and participate in the planning efforts within normal budgetary resources, the following describes the fiscal impact of other aspects of the bill.

Section 2 of the bill mandates that each local and regional school district establish a school safety committee and specifies certain tasks to be carried out by said committees. This provision thus results in a minimal cost to local and regional school districts due to the dissemination of information and the review of the various procedures. Ultimately, the recommendations of these committees may result in other costs to local and regional school districts but such

costs cannot be determined at this time.

Finally, the bill requires day care facilities (state agencies having on-site child day care centers and municipally-affiliated child day care programs) to develop crisis response plans, which would result in increased administrative costs. The Department of Social Services provides \$22.8 million annually to child day care centers, as well as \$116 million annually in childcare subsidies. To the extent that any costs related to the development of the crisis response plans are passed on to the state through these programs, an additional cost to the state may result.<sup>1</sup> However, any such cost to the state is expected to be minimal.

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<sup>1</sup> Private providers operate most day care programs serving state or municipal agencies.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5424

**AN ACT CONCERNING CIVIL PREPAREDNESS AND THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires various state commissioners to develop a plan that includes the special needs of children who are exposed to terrorism and strengthens emergency and rescue services to protect children from biological, chemical, and toxic agents. They must submit their plan to the General Assembly by January 1, 2003.

Current law allows school boards to establish districtwide safety committees to increase staff and student awareness of safety and health issues and review the adequacy of each school's emergency response procedures. The bill requires boards to establish a committee and expands their scope to include (1) developing a crisis response plan for terrorist incidents and other emergencies and (2) recommending changes in school emergency procedures to conform to the crisis plan. That plan must cover (1) safety and security measures, including evacuation procedures; (2) provision of mental health services for children, staff, and parents; and (3) ways to disseminate accurate and appropriate information to them. By law, parents and high school students must be included on the committees.

Finally, the bill requires the public health commissioner to adopt regulations requiring child day care centers and group day care homes to develop a crisis response plan for terrorist incidents and other emergencies that includes the same elements as the one required for school districts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2002

**TERRORISM PLANNING FOR CHILDREN**

The bill requires the public safety, public health, education, children and families, and mental health and addiction services commissioners jointly to develop a plan that (1) includes the special needs of children

who are exposed to terrorism or bioterrorism and (2) strengthens emergency and rescue services to protect children from biological, chemical, and toxic agents (presumably resulting from terrorist acts). The bill does not define terrorism, nor does current law.

The plan must:

1. ensure that police, fire, emergency medical, and other emergency personnel are equipped and trained to deal with the medical needs of children exposed to a terrorist attack;
2. ensure that safe, appropriate medicines are available to children affected by a bioterrorist attack;
3. provide for coordinated communications and training regarding the protection, health, and safety of children in response to terrorism;
4. ensure that mental health services are available for children affected by a terrorist attack, including mental health consultants for child day care and school readiness programs and mental health professionals in schools or in community mental health systems linked to schools;
5. ensure, with the help of local building officials, that all school building and day care facilities (apparently including family day care homes) are structurally safe and secure;
6. ensure, through the use of community facilities and resources, that children have a safe place to be during nonschool hours; and
7. include ways to increase youth involvement in community service and civic activities.

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 11      Nay 0

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 24      Nay 0